

DISCOURSE MARKERS

Discourse markers are words that can show the connection between what the writer is writing and what has already been written; they can help to make clear the structure of what is being said. There are a very large number of these "discourse markers", and it is impossible to give a complete list in a few pages. Some of these words and expressions have more than one use; for more information, look in a good dictionary.

Here are the main functions of these discourse markers or connectors.

- **FOCUSING AND LINKING**

With reference to; as far as....is concerned; as for
As far as marketing is concerned, I think....
As, for the new development plan,

- **BALANCING CONTRASTING POINTS**

On the one hand, on the other hand;while; whereas

On the one hand, we need to reduce costs. On the other hand, investment.....

I like the mountains, while/whereas my wife prefers the seaside.

While/Whereas some languages have 30 or more different vowel sounds, others have five or less.

- **EMPHASISING A CONTRAST**

However; nevertheless;nonetheless; still; yet; in spite of this/that;despite this/that, although,

It was an oppressive dictatorship, but nevertheless it ensured stability.

Britain came last in the World Children's games. However, we had one success with Annie Smith's world record in the sack race. I was not able to talk her into doing the job; Still, I am happy.

In spite of playing with ten men, we won easily.

Despite falling midway through the race, she won.

Despite and In spite of are never followed with a finite verb. So, for Example, we can't say "Despite/In spite of she fell midway through. However, you can use a clause with a finite verb after the fact that: Despite/In spite of the fact that she fell.....

We use although or though when we want to say that there is an unexpected contrast between what happened in the main clause and what happened in the adverbial clause:

Although/Though she was still too young to learn to drive, she bought a car.

▪ SIMILARITY

Similarly; In the same way; Just as

The roads are usually very crowded at the beginning of the holiday season. Similarly, there are often serious traffic jams at the end of the holiday.

Just as the Greeks looked down on the Romans, the Romans looked down on their uncivilised neighbours.

▪ CONTRADICTING

On the contrary; Quite the opposite

These expressions can contradict a suggestion or an idea made before.

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She did not allow the accident to discourage her. **On the contrary/Quite the opposite**, she began to work twice as hard.

▪ **RETURN TO THE PREVIOUS SUBJECT**

..especially in France. To return to the previous point, non-European historians....

▪ **STRUCTURING**

Firstly, First of all, secondly, thirdly, lastly, finally, to begin with, to start with,

▪ **ADDING**

Moreover; furthermore; in addition; what is more; also; besides;

These expressions introduce additional information or arguments.

The peasants are desperately short of food. **Furthermore/In addition**, they urgently need doctors and medical supplies.

Her father was out of work. **Also**, her mother was in poor health.

▪ **GENERALISING**

On the whole; In general; in all/most/many/some cases; broadly speaking; by and large; to a great extent; to some extent;

On the whole, I had a happy childhood.

In general, we are satisfied with the work.

In most cases, people will be nice to you if you are nice to them.

Broadly speaking, teachers are overworked and underpaid.

By and large, this is a pleasant place to live.

To a great extent, a person's character is formed by the age of eight.

▪ GIVING EXAMPLES

For instance; for example; e.g.;

These expressions introduce particular examples to illustrate what has been said.

People often behave strangely when they`re abroad. Take Mrs Ellis, for example/for instance.....

▪ LOGICAL CONSEQUENCE

Therefore; as a result; consequently; so; then

These expressions show that what is said or written follows logically from what was said before.

So she had to get married to a man she didn` t like.

She was therefore unable to avoid an unwelcome marriage.

▪ MAKING THINGS CLEAR; GIVING DETAILS

Actually; that is to say; in other words; as a matter of fact; In fact.

Actually means "really" or "in fact".

Did you enjoy your holiday? Very much, actually.

I`ve got a new job. Actually, they`ve made me sales manager.

We cannot continue with the deal on this basis. That is to say/In other words, unless you can bring down the price we will have to cancel the order.

▪ SUMMING UP

In conclusion; to sum up;

In conclusion, we can see that Britain`s economic problems were mainly due to lack of industrial investment.